

In the Claims:

Please amend Claim 1 and add new Claims 6-9 as indicated below. The status of all pending claims is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A tire/wheel assembly in which a run-flat support member formed of an annular shell and elastic rings is inserted into a cavity portion of a pneumatic tire mounted onto a rim, the annular shell having an arched cross-section, and the elastic rings being attached to bent ends of the annular shell on an inner peripheral side of the annular shell,

wherein the bent ends only extend in an axial direction at a uniform radial distance from a central axis,

wherein a plurality of notches are provided in the bent ends of the annular shell along a circumferential direction of the annular shell, a length L_n of the respective notches in the circumferential direction is set between 1.0 mm and 15.0 mm inclusive, and a ratio W_s/W_g of a width W_s (mm) of the respective bent ends of the annular shell to a thickness W_g (mm) of the respective elastic rings is set between 0.55 and 0.92 inclusive,

wherein the annular shell is formed of a metal material, and

wherein a ratio L_n/L_p of the length L_n (mm) of the respective notches in the circumferential direction to an alignment pitch L_p (mm) thereto in the circumferential direction is set between 0.07 and 0.30 inclusive, and a ratio W_n/W_s of a length W_n (mm)

of the respective notches in a direction orthogonal to the circumferential direction to the width W_s (mm) of the respective bent ends is set between 0.3 and 1.5 inclusive to be greater than or equal to 0.3 but less than 1.0.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The tire/wheel assembly according to claim 1, wherein the ratio L_n/L_p of the length L_n (mm) of the respective notches in the circumferential direction to the alignment pitch L_p (mm) thereof in the circumferential direction is set between 0.09 and 0.25 inclusive, and a radius of curvature of each of connecting portions connecting the respective bent ends and sidewall surfaces of the annular shell is set between 4 mm and 10 mm inclusive.

4. (Previously Presented) The tire/wheel assembly according to any one of claims 1 or 3, wherein the metal material has breaking strength not less than 600 MPa.

5. (Previously Presented) The tire/wheel assembly according to claim 3, wherein the metal material has breaking strength not less than 800 MPa.

6. (New) A tire/wheel assembly in which a run-flat support member formed of an annular shell and elastic rings is inserted into a cavity portion of a pneumatic tire mounted onto a rim, the annular shell having an arched cross-section, and the elastic rings being attached to bent ends of the annular shell on an inner peripheral side of the annular shell,

wherin the bent ends only extend in an axial direction at a uniform radial distance from a central axis,

wherein the bent ends are connected to sidewall surfaces of the annular shell at a radius of curvature portion,

wherin a plurality of notches are provided in the bent ends of the annular shell along a circumferential direction of the annular shell, a length L_n of the respective notches in the circumferential direction is set between 1.0 mm and 15.0 mm inclusive, and a ratio W_s/W_g of a width W_s (mm) of the respective bent ends of the annular shell to a thickness W_g (mm) of the respective elastic rings is set between 0.55 and 0.92 inclusive,

wherin the annular shell is formed of a metal material,

wherin a ratio L_n/L_p of the length L_n (mm) of the respective notches in the circumferential direction to an alignment pitch L_p (mm) thereof in the circumferential direction is set between 0.07 and 0.30 inclusive, and a ratio W_n/W_s of a length W_n (mm) of the respective notches in a direction orthogonal to the circumferential direction to the width W_s (mm) of the respective bent ends is set between 0.3 and 1.5 inclusive, and

further wherein said notches each terminate well before reaching said associated radius of curvature portion.

7. (New) The tire/wheel assembly according to claim 6, wherein the ratio L_n/L_p of the length L_n (mm) of the respective notches in the circumferential direction to the alignment pitch L_p (mm) thereof in the circumferential direction is set between 0.09 and 0.25 inclusive, and a radius of curvature of each of connecting portions connecting the respective bent ends and sidewall surfaces of the annular shell is set between 4 mm and 10 mm inclusive.

8. (New) The tire/wheel assembly according to any one of claims 6 or 7, wherein the metal material has breaking strength not less than 600 MPa.

9. (New) The tire/wheel assembly according to claim 7, wherein the metal material has breaking strength not less than 800 MPa.